

## For Further Information

Further information about the donation of specific organs for transplant or to medical science, and about inner-ear research, may be obtained through your family doctor, or:

- *The Eye Bank of Canada (Ontario Division), The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, 1929 Bayview Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4G 3E8, or the nearest CNIB office*
- *Kidney Foundation of Canada (Ontario Division), 1430 Yonge St., Suite 220B, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1Y5*
- *Ontario Temporal Bone Bank, Banting Institute, Rms. 524-525, 100 College St., Toronto, Ontario M5G 1L5*
- *Department of anatomy at the nearest medical school.* In Ontario medical schools are connected with universities in Toronto, London, Kingston, Hamilton and Ottawa.
- *The Foundation for Growth Problems in Children, 4 Grosvenor Street, London, Ontario.* Human pituitaries are required for extraction of human growth hormones, used in the treatment of pituitary dwarfism in children and young adults.

my body for medical science, education or research (if this alternative is selected, be sure also to contact your nearest medical school)

In the event of my death, please notify:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(relationship: relative, friend)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of donor)

ONTARIO



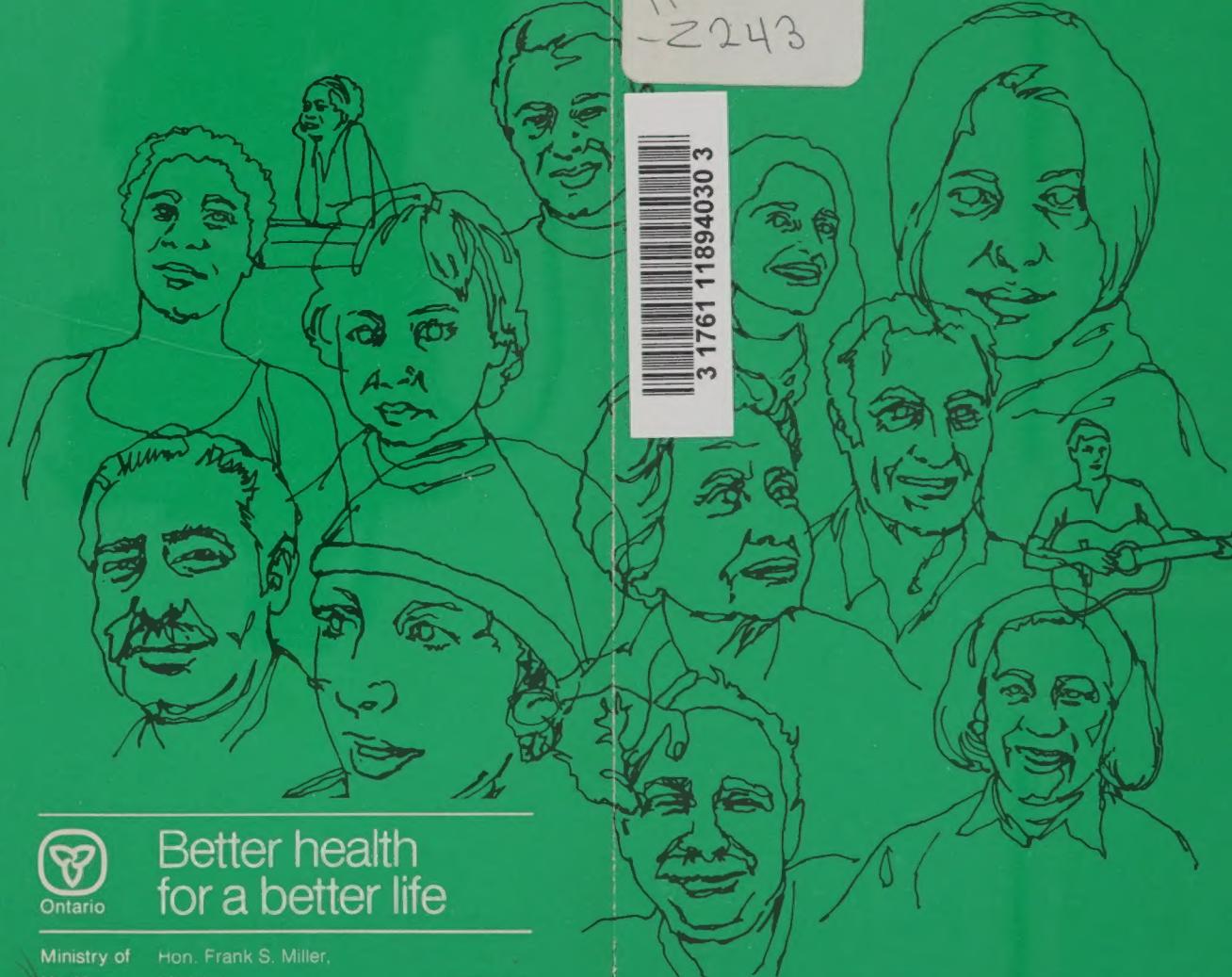
Ministry of  
Health

Hon. Frank S. Miller,  
Minister

TS-3382/11/75/30X

*...that someone  
else may live*

CA 20N  
-Z243



Better health  
for a better life

## Organ donors needed

Corneas and kidneys are now being transplanted with greater success than ever before — partly as the result of an increase in the number of people willing to donate, and partly because of advances in medical science.

But still more donors are needed.

Eye donations are needed to help the more than 1,600 eye patients in Canada whose sight could be regained or improved through corneal transplants. And approximately 1,500 patients with malfunctioning kidneys are kept alive by artificial means (dialysis). Many of them are waiting for a new kidney.

The need for donations of other organs is also expected to grow, as the medical profession works to perfect transplant techniques and to expand research on problems like organ rejection. Over the next five to ten years, if rejection becomes less of a problem than it is now, donations of the heart, lung, pancreas, liver and other vital organs could be in growing demand.

Blood donations, of course, are always in demand.

Donations of abnormal inner-ear structures are also needed for research into ear problems now being carried out through the Ontario Temporal Bone Bank.

## Timing is crucial

Hospital transplant teams can be assembled quickly to perform transplants, but in addition to the shortage of organs, their work is complicated by other factors.

Blood and tissue types of donor and recipient must be compatible or the organ is rejected. And the operation for removal of the organ for transplant must be completed shortly after the donor's death — within an hour for kidneys, and up to 10 hours for corneas.

Timing is particularly critical when a life is at stake. Sometimes the only way to save it is by flying the only suitable organ available from one country to another.

## The statistics are hopeful

The greatest successes in organ transplants so far have been achieved with corneas and kidneys. The Eye Bank of Canada's Ontario Division alone has enabled at least 3,000 people to see again as a result of corneal transplants. And more than 300 single-eye corneal transplants a year now take place in Ontario, compared to 500 or so for the rest of Canada.

Of approximately 250 kidney transplants performed annually throughout the country, roughly 100 take place in Ontario — while on a world scale, as a result of kidney transplants, about 5,000 people are now alive.

## Donate when healthy

Anyone who wants to be an organ donor should consider the decision carefully. Prospective donors should be in good health and should understand all the procedures and implications involved. So should their relatives or close friends. These people should be informed of the donor's intentions so they can be spared unnecessary stress and strain at the time of death. Survivors of a donor may take consolation from the fact that through the donor's death, life or sight for another person might be made possible.

## Donor card should be easy to find

At the time of death, the signed donor's card should be easy to find — in a wallet or some other handy place. Being able to find the card quickly speeds up procedures, and donors should inform relatives, close friends, or hospital staff.

## Identity protected

Under The Human Tissue Gift Act, the identity of organ donors and recipients is protected by law.

Donors' families or survivors often want to know to whom organ donations have gone, but recipients usually prefer not to know where they have come from. For this reason alone, protection is desirable.

Except where legally required, no information can be disclosed about either a donor or recipient — and this applies to all organizations and persons

concerned. Only a donor or recipient can disclose publicly whether he or she is a donor or recipient.

## Donations to medical science

Those wishing to donate their bodies to medical science or education may do so under The Human Tissue Gift Act by filling out the donor's card in this pamphlet. Or they may do so by contacting the anatomy department of the nearest medical school (there are five across the province). Medical schools — since they operate under The Anatomy Act — require an additional form to be filled in, with the donor's signature, that of the next-of-kin, and the signatures of two witnesses.

## Donations may or may not be accepted

Eye donations are almost always accepted, whether for research or transplantation, and whatever the cause of the donor's death.

But there's no guarantee that donations of kidneys or other vital organs will be accepted if they're diseased or unsuitable in any way.

Bodies donated to medical science must be intact (eyes excepted), and must not have been extensively diseased at time of death.

## Signature makes donation legal

The signature of anyone 18 years of age or over on an organ donor card is all that's needed to make consent of post-mortem donations legal. The card can be invalidated by simply tearing it up.

### DONOR CARD



Ministry of  
Health

General consent to post-mortem  
transplant or other use of my body

I \_\_\_\_\_  
of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)  
(address)

being over the age of 18 years, under the authority of The Human Tissue Gift Act, 1971, consent to the use after my death of:

all parts of my body for transplant into the body of another human being for any therapeutic purpose  
 only the following organs or parts of my body for any therapeutic purpose \_\_\_\_\_